



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

NOTICE – CERTIFICATION RENEWAL DEFERRED UNTIL 2016

Massachusetts Dental Amalgam/Mercury Recycling Program Certification

TO: Dental Facility Owner/Manager:

This NOTICE is for all Dental Facilities with 2015 deadlines for submittal of Dental Amalgam/Mercury Recycling Program Certifications. By this NOTICE you are hereby informed that your current Dental Amalgam/Mercury Recycling Program Certification has been extended for one year. Your facility's next certification will be due to MassDEP on June 15, 2016, provided that you remain in compliance with the conditions of your current certification.

During 2015, MassDEP plans to propose changes to its dental facility regulations and the amalgam separator certification that we believe will make compliance easier for you and improve the program.

The one-year deferral of your certification filing allows MassDEP to:

1. solicit feedback on the proposed new approach;
2. propose revised regulations;
3. revise its amalgam separator certification form;
4. adequately communicate upcoming regulation and certification changes; and
5. provide adequate time for the dental community to prepare for the upcoming changes.

If you are no longer affiliated with this facility, the facility has changed ownership, or you have any questions about the program or this letter, please email dental.mercury@state.ma.us or contact:

Lee Andrews or David Biggers
617-292-5647 617-292-5787

For more information about the current MassDEP Dental program requirements, please see:
<http://mass.gov/dep/dental>

We applaud your participation in the dental amalgam mercury recycling program that has been so successful in reducing mercury in our environment. Before this program began, wastewater, from dental offices across the state, contributed approximately half of the total mercury discharged to Massachusetts wastewater each year. This contributed to levels of mercury in our streams, lakes and coastal waters, resulting in fish consumption advisories issued for water bodies across the Commonwealth. Since the program began, some wastewater systems are reporting a 50 percent reduction in residual mercury in their sludge. And as a result of this and other efforts to reduce mercury in the environment, we have seen significant declines in mercury levels in freshwater fish in Massachusetts.

Thank you for helping us to significantly improve our environment.

Sincerely,

This final document copy is being provided to you electronically by the
Department of Environmental Protection. A signed copy of this document
is on file at the DEP office listed on the letterhead.

Greg Cooper, Director
Division of Business Compliance and Recycling
Bureau of Air and Waste